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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1232)

Name of Candidate	APRAJIT		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	149136
Center	Delhi	Date	17/06/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
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14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Give an account of the direct and indirect sources which help in deciphering information about earth's interior. **(150 Words) 10**

पृथ्वी की आंतरिक संरचना के विषय में जानकारी प्राप्त करने में सहायता करने वाले प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष स्रोतों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

Interior of the Earth's crust has been a mystery for scientists since ages. The technological and scientific advancements have led to following progress:

① Direct Sources

(a) Deep sea oil wells

(b) Mining

(c) Variation in Temperature and Pressure with depth

However, these sources are not as useful as indirect sources as the maximum that humans have reached below the earth is only 50 km out of total radius of about 6000 km.

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(2) Indirect Sources

(a) Other celestial bodies
↳ Eg. meteors, moon, Juno sent to Jupiter, etc.

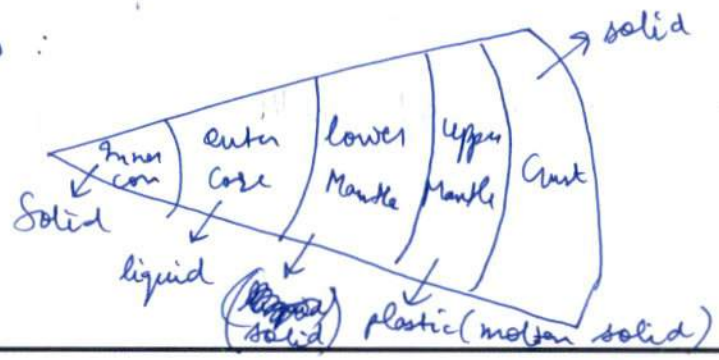
(b) Gravitional anomaly: different force at different places

(c) Magnetic force/field variation

(d) Earthquake (most important)
- → S and P waves
- → S waves flow through only solid. (not liquid or gas).
- → P waves flow through all the mediums.
- → Capturing the S and P wave shadow zones, it can be concluded that

• density increases downwards

• 5 layers :



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2. With adequate examples, explain how ocean currents influence the formation of fishing grounds across the world. **(150 words) 10**

यथोचित उदाहरणों के साथ, व्याख्या कीजिए कि किस प्रकार महासागरीय धाराएं विश्व भर में मत्स्यन क्षेत्रों के निर्माण को प्रभावित करती हैं।

Ocean currents can be defined as uni-directional long range movement of ocean water on the surface of the ocean as well as below the depths.

They are useful for formation of fishing grounds in following ways:

* The places where warm and cold currents meet are the best fishing grounds.
* This is because it provides suitable temperature and salinity for a wide diversity of fish and aquatic life.
* For example:
  - The Oyashio (cold) and Kuroshio
    (7 in figure below) (3 in figure below)

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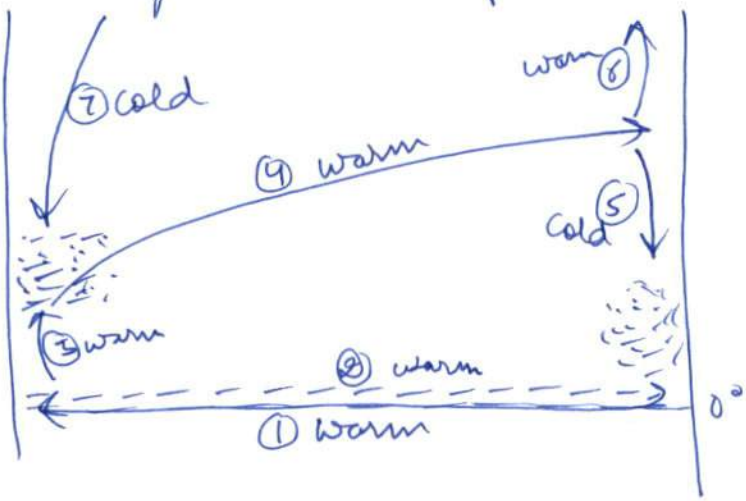
(warm) current meet in the Eastern side of Japan which makes it the best fishing ground.

Figure: Movement of ocean currents



* The currents where 2 and 5 meet as well as where 3 and 7 meet are the ~~pro~~ best fishing grounds. * The upwelling of ~~nutrients~~ water due to current movements and leading to coming up of lot of nutrients also help in increasing the aquatic life.

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3. Assess the feasibility of introducing two time zones in India in the wake of recent proposal made by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). **(150 words) 10**

वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद (CSIR) के हालिया प्रस्ताव के आलोक में भारत में दो टाइम ज़ोन लागू करने की व्यवहार्यता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

The current time zone of India passes through 82°5' through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. However, there has been a demand for introduction of 2 time zones due to following reasons:

① Huge longitudinal expanse of India
↳ Time difference between west and east most points is more than 2 hours.

② Other countries with comparable expanse have 2 time zones or more. Eg. France.

③ The productive time utilisation is less in the East as it becomes dark very early (~ about 5PM) while in the central part of India, it is not dark even till 7:30 PM specially during summers. Thus, it will enhance the

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economic productivity as well.

(4) Pre independence, India had 2 time zones

(5) Assam has already moved to another time zone due to tea gardens requirements.

However, there are also issues such as:

(1) Illiteracy : people will not understand

(2) Europe is trying to abandon the practice due to lot of confusion.

(3) Difficulty in administration

Assam has already moved ahead of adopting a separate time zone for tea gardens and thus, before going any further, it is best that this programme is monitored carefully as a pilot project to understand all the difficulties that India might face, if at all two time zones are adopted.

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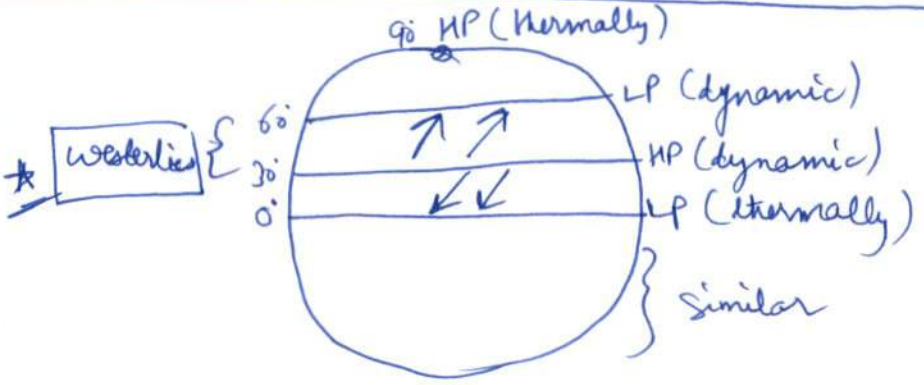
4. Giving examples, explain how land topography affects the regional and planetary wind systems. Also, differentiate between the westerlies of the northern and southern hemisphere. **(150 words) 10**

सोदाहरण व्याख्या कीजिए कि धरातलीय स्थलाकृति क्षेत्रीय और ग्रहीय पवन प्रणालियों को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करती है। साथ ही, उत्तरी और दक्षिणी गोलार्ध की पछुवा पवनों के मध्य अंतर स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Land topography plays a crucial role in determining the strength and direction of regional and planetary winds. For example:

1. South Westerly Jet stream: divided into 2 parts when flowing through the Himalayas
2. Northern Tropical Easterly Jet stream: due to Tibetan plateau getting very hot.
3. Land breeze and Sea breeze: due to difference in Temp./Pressure over land/sea.
4. Monsoons: secured by the Himalayas
5. Local winds such as foehn, blizzards, pampero, etc are majorly outcome of the either glacial formations on land or due to nearby deserts.



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Northern Westerlies	Southern Westerlies
★ Due to high continentality in summer, the dynamically created high pressure at 30° breaks and in winter, the dynamically created low pressure at 60° breaks. This leads to weakening of northern westerlies throughout the year.	★ Due to less continentality, the pressure belts remain intacts and thus, they flow strongly throughout the year.
★	★ They are called • roaring fourties • furious fifties • shrieking sixties due to their strong nature in the S-hemisphere

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5. Mention the conditions responsible for occurrence of Temperature Inversion in atmosphere. Elaborating on its various types, highlight its effects on the biosphere. **(150 words) 10**

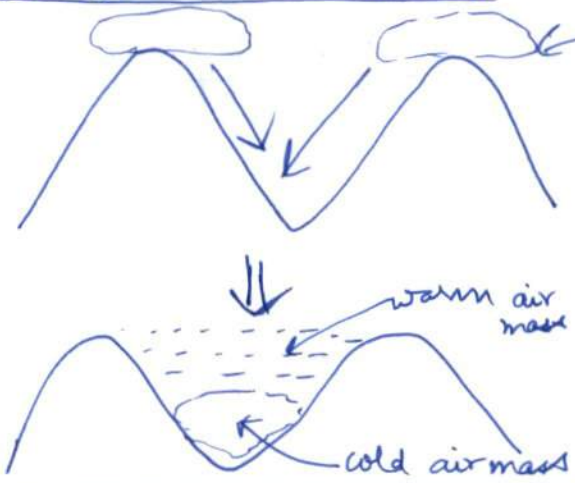
वायुमंडल में तापमान व्युत्क्रमण की घटना हेतु उत्तरदायी परिस्थितियों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इसके विभिन्न प्रकारों का सविस्तार वर्णन करते हुए, इसके द्वारा जैवमंडल पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Temperature decreases with altitude in normal circumstances. However, it sometimes increases before eventually decreasing at height increases. This is called temperature inversion.

Conditions in plains:

* long cold nights so that land becomes cold
* minimum winds horizontally
* As land becomes cold, the nearby air also becomes cold and upper remains warm. This leads to temperature inversion

Conditions in hills:



high altitude, cold air mass but it becomes dense and hence moves down. This leads to warm air moving up and leads to temp. invert.

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Impact of temperature inversion on biosphere

① In hills, as the warm air moves up, it causes rainfall on the slopes of the hills. This is why orchids are grown on the slopes and not in valleys.

② When the warm air mass is above the cold air mass, it does not allow dew to be formed over the orchids and hence, protecting them.

③ The foggy conditions are formed near by the ground and in the valleys. This leads to dew formation and frost formation on the crops grown in plains such as wheat, etc. This leads to adverse impact on the crop.

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6. Explain how ISRO's Chandrayaan 1 mission has improved our scientific understanding of moon. How will Chandrayaan 2 be different from its predecessor in terms of technology and objectives? **(150 words) 10**

व्याख्या कीजिए कि किस प्रकार ISRO के चंद्रयान 1 मिशन से चंद्रमा के प्रति हमारी वैज्ञानिक समझ में सुधार आया है। चंद्रयान 2 प्रौद्योगिकी और उद्देश्यों के संदर्भ में अपने पूर्ववर्ती से किस प्रकार भिन्न होगा?

India became only the 4th country to send a space mission to the moon. It was named Chandrayaan-1 and has helped us in following ways :-

① Discovery of water particles in the moon's atmosphere.

② Discovery of frozen water layers near the poles of the moon.

③ It has conducted various experiments in moon's atmosphere. Eg. its very less gravitional force and formation of large craters

Chandrayaan 2 has been planned to be launched in 2019. It is different from Chandrayaan 1 in following terms :-

① It will not only orbit the moon but

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will land a rover (Vikram) and a lander, on the moon's surface.

(2) It will use NASA's technology to collect some samples and perform experiments to decode the evolution of moon.

(3) It will be targeted at 600km from the South pole of moon — the Atiken basin where no country has reached yet. The exploration of new spaces will disclose more about the materials which make up the moon and also try to get an interference from it about the possibility of life on moon.

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7. Identify different factors that trigger Glacial Lake Outburst Floods. Also, suggest certain measures that need to be taken to minimize their impact. **(150 words) 10**

उन विभिन्न कारकों की पहचान कीजिए जो हिमनदीय झील प्रस्फोट जनित बाढ़ (ग्लेशियल लेक आउटबर्स्ट फ्लड) को प्रेरित करते हैं। साथ ही, इनके प्रभावों को न्यून करने हेतु किए जाने वाले कुछ आवश्यक उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

The recent floods of Uttrakhand (2016) were a result of glacial lake outburst. They have increased in frequency in recent times due to following reasons :-

① Global warming
- → increase in glacier melting
- → lakes are unable to withstand such large amount of water

② Cloud burst
- → sudden addition of huge amount of water leads to instability of lake.

③ Accumulation of pollutants in lakes
- → e.g. by tourists, urban sewage dumping and industrial waste, etc.

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Measures to minimize the impact:

① Prevent the natural endemic hazards from turning into disasters
↳ E.g. • land zoning
• Continuous level monitoring of lakes
• closing of tourist/pilgrimage spots in case of threat
• strengthening of lake boundaries.

② Early warning systems
↳ not only about clouds burst but about additional calamities that it might bring. E.g. landslides, etc.

③ Urban planning to increase the level of water absorption/percolation capacity by rainwater harvesting etc.

④ channelizing excessive lakes water before the monsoons specifically to agriculture, rejuvenation of other wetlands, etc.

⑤ Trained human resources and well planned evacuation

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8. What is palaeomagnetism? Explain how it serves as a bridging evidence for Plate Tectonics Theory. **(150 words) 10**

पुराचुम्बकत्व क्या है? व्याख्या कीजिए कि यह किस प्रकार प्लेट विवर्तनिकी सिद्धांत के प्रमाण हेतु एक सेतु के रूप में कार्य करता है।

Paleo magnetism can be defined as the study of climate change over a long period of time. For example, Alfred Wegner in 1912 found out that the climatic conditions of a land/region in the present times are very different from what it used to be thousands of years ago.

Wegner used it as a evidence his theory of continental drift and was also used by Morgan in 1967 when he gave his theory of plate tectonics as follows :-

① The variation of climatic conditions by such large extent is possible only

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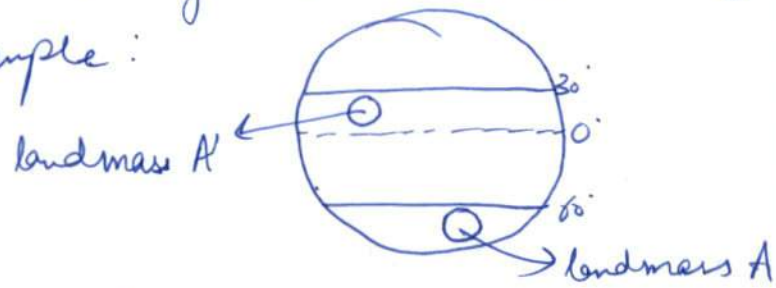
if the the region considered is moving.
For example:



The landmass A was highly cold climate region (tundra) where as the same land mass now experiences equitorial climate. This is possible only if the landmass is moving. This proved the movement of plates in the plate tectonic theory.

* Another evidence given was of change of the magnetic polarity in various random directions. But because the N-pole and S-poles are fixed (at least for millions of years), it's random direction is possible only if the landmass has also moved randomly due to the convectional forces of the mantle.

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9. Discuss the significance of phytoplankton in marine ecosystem. Also, explain the causes and consequences of the phytoplankton blooms.

(150 words) 10

समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में पादपप्लवकों के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, पादपप्लवक प्रस्फुटन (फाइटोप्लैंकटन ब्लूम) के कारणों और परिणामों की भी व्याख्या कीजिए।

Phytoplanktons can be defined as the the marine organisms which can prepare their own food by the process of photosynthesis, eg. sea grass, sea weeds, etc.

Significance ~~Causes~~ of phytoplanktons:

① Food for other organisms (herbivorous aquatic)

② Shelter for small fish / zooxanthelle

③ Absorption of CO_2 and releasing O_2 by photosynthesis.

④ Maintaining an ecological balance in the marine ecosystem.

Causes of boom:

① Anthropogenic activities (Eutrophication)

↳ overflow of nutrient rich water from

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agricultural fields with fertilizers, house-hold drainage and industrial wastes.

② Natural upwelling of nutrients by ocean currents eg. volcanic activities or land slides below water.

Consequences: ① Increase in Biological oxygen demand will lead to death of marine organisms.

② Water becomes non-transparent. Sunlight does not reach lower levels.

③ Death of organisms will further increase the oxygen demand as bacteria will need O_2 for decomposition.

④ Disrupt the whole ecosystem by formation of dead zones.

(*) Prevention of Eutrophication is the key. The nature is well endowed with carrying capacity to counter any natural changes. But, it is our duty to prevent the anthropogenic activities from accelerating these natural changes. Eg. use drip irrigation, waste water treatment, etc

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10. Discuss India's vulnerability to chemical disasters. In this context, mention safety initiatives taken to address chemical risk in India. **(150 words) 10**

रासायनिक आपदाओं के प्रति भारत की सुभेद्यता पर चर्चा कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में रासायनिक जोखिम से निपटने हेतु की गई सुरक्षा पहलों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

The Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984 still persists in the minds of people and the recent uprising of people in Tamil Nadu against the Vedanta Chemical plant is a proof of it.

Chemical industry is a major and significant industry for economic growth of any country. However, as per the UN report, the developing countries such as India are at much higher risks because:

① Land pattern Usage
↳ due to high population, industrialised areas are very near the residential areas.

② Poor labor
↳ try to get accomodation a near the plant as possible to save the money on transportation.

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③ High population

④ Low safety measures by irresponsible industrialists.

⑤ Old technology used in plants

⑥ Low monitoring mechanism by the governments. Continuous easing of rules to ↑ ease of doing business.

Steps taken to address chemical risks:-

① Compulsory mock drills and training to the workforce/ nearby villagers/ residents about using the safety equipments

② Environment Impact Assessment: includes the safety measures, safety of social capital, etc.

③ Compulsory constitution of 'Emergency Response Team' in each industrial area.

④ National Disaster Management Plan has listed it under 1 of the 15 disasters listed by it.

⑤ Continuous and strict monitoring, upgrading of technology and safety as per global standards.

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11. Comment on the variability of ocean bottom topography. Also, give an account of formation of the mid-oceanic ridge system. **(250 words) 15**

महासागरीय नितल की स्थलाकृति की परिवर्तनशीलता पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, मध्य महासागरीय कटक प्रणाली के निर्माण का भी विवरण दीजिए।

Upto 1920s, it was believed that the ocean surface is plain without any topographical features. However, that was proven false by the sea floor spreading theory and later ocean expeditions. It has following features :-

(1) Continental side consists of the shelf, slope and the rise with continental side of the trench.

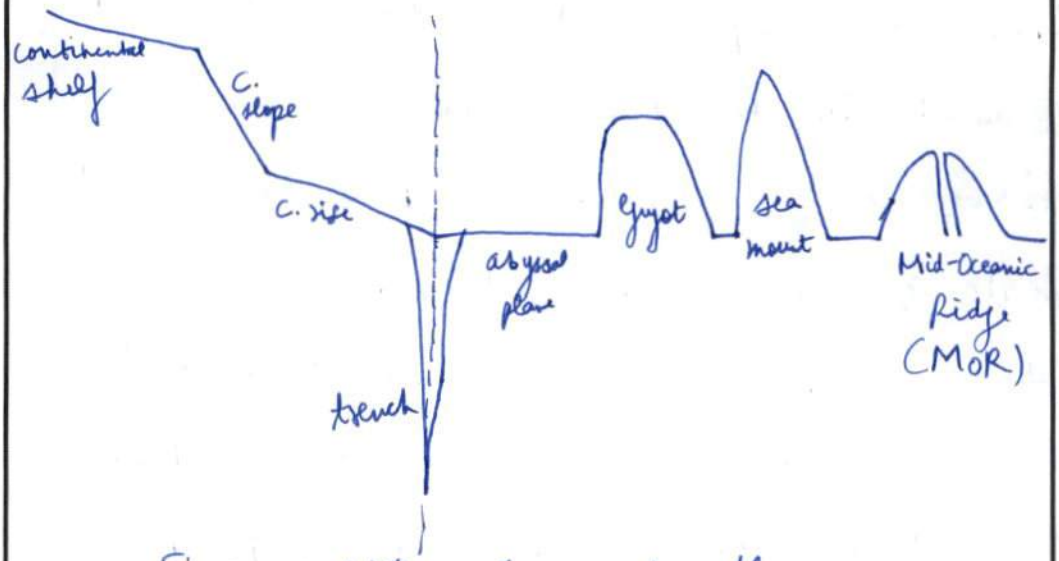

Figure : picture of oceanic floor

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* Slope has an inclination of more than 50° where as the shelf has 1-2° inclination only.

* The trench are usually deeper than the tallest mountains over earth surface.

② Oceanic side

- Abyssal plane
- MORs may rise above to form islands
- Guyot : sea mountain with a flat top due to erosion
- Sea mounts
- Mid Oceanic Ridge : These are the long ranges of mountains below the ocean formed due to the oceanic-oceanic convergence. The plate ① (given below) and plate ② converge to subduct the more denser plate. The magma is formed due to the melting of subducted which comes out of the other plate forming MOR.

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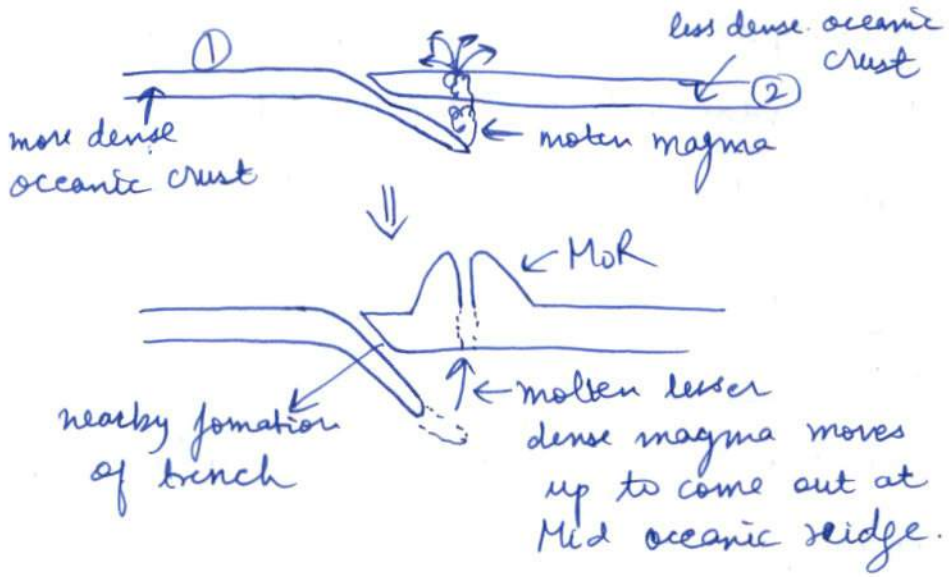
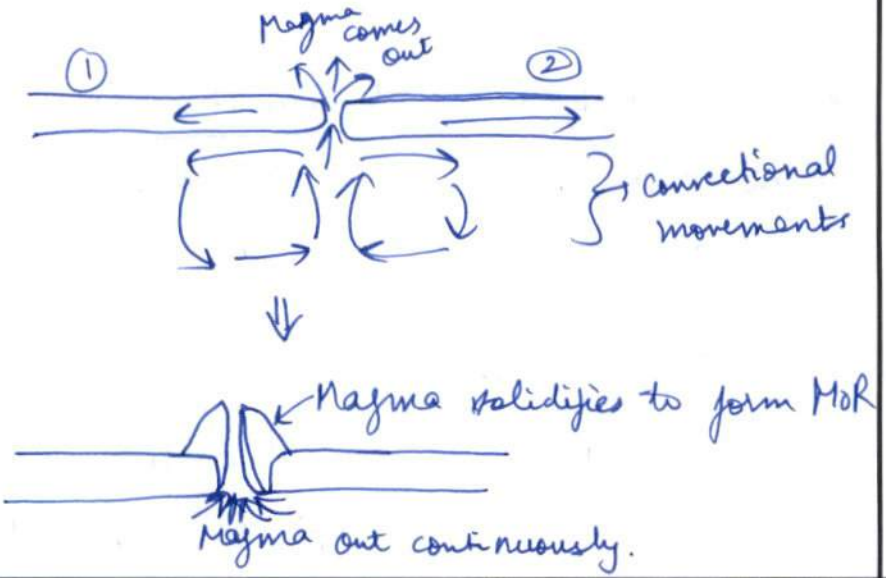
Formation of Mid oceanic Ridge

⊛ Oceanic - Oceanic Convergence



⊛ MORs can also be formed by the Oceanic-oceanic divergence as shown below :-



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12. What is the impact of rising ocean temperature on biosphere? Provide an account of the measures that can be taken to address its causes as well as effects. **(250 words) 15**

महासागरों के बढ़ते तापमान का जैवमंडल पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है? इसके प्रभावों के साथ-साथ इसके कारणों को दूर करने के लिए किए जा सकने वाले उपायों का विवरण प्रदान कीजिए।

The anthropogenic activities has led to global warming which has caused instability in Earth heat budget and thus, there is a continuous increase in the oceanic temperature.

The increase in oceanic temperature has following impacts on biosphere:

① Positive feedback for global warming

- The absorbed CO_2 will be released accelerating global warming and climate change.
- The metabolism of aquatic life will increase and they will also release more CO_2 and demand more O_2

② Impact on aquatic life

- dissolved O_2 will decrease in water and this will lead to mass deaths

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of marine organisms

③ Corals and Kelp forests
↳ coral bleaching : 99% of corals will die with increase in 2°C (IPCC)

④ Melting of polar ice caps
↳ this will lead to increase in sea level and large parts of coastal ecosystems will be disrupted.
↳ The polar ice caps will also release CH_4, etc from gas hydrates on melting to further accelerate the problem.

Measures that can be taken to address the rising ocean temperature:-

① Countries must take responsibility to achieve and upgrade their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris agreement.

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② Use of Green Climate Fund and other such mechanisms for technology transfer, joint green projects and sustainable development.

③ The proposed high-tech measures such as mirrors in space, cloud seeding/thinning, etc must be launched on pilot basis.

④ The targets of Kigali Agreements and launching of Cooling Action Plans where India can emerge as a new world leader.

⑤ Energy resource and production should be diversified with full thrust on renewable and green energy.

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13. Explain the reasons behind earthquakes in Himalayas being more intense and frequent than the ones occurring in Alps region. Why are scientists predicting a largescale earthquake in northern India? Also, elaborate upon some prominent earthquake forecasting techniques. **(250 words) 15**

आल्प्स क्षेत्र में आने वाले भूकंपों की तुलना में हिमालय में आने वाले भूकंपों के अधिक तीव्र होने और बारंबार आने के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों की व्याख्या कीजिए। वैज्ञानिक उत्तर भारत में उच्च तीव्रता वाले भूकंप के आने की भविष्यवाणी क्यों कर रहे हैं? साथ ही, भूकंप पूर्वानुमान संबंधी कुछ प्रमुख तकनीकों का सिवस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Himalayas account for the 3rd highest number of earthquakes every year where as the nearby Alps are much more stable due to following reasons :-

① Himalayas are young fold mountains but Himalayas are much younger as Alps are old fold mountains.

② The Himalayas still experience huge force especially on the eastern sides while Alps lie on the western side.

③ This is because the movement of Indo-Australian plate is upwards as well as counter clockwise.

④ Material of Himalayas is much loosely packed.

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⑤ High number of rivers } high number of dams
⑥ High amount of rainfall

• These 2 reasons lead to soliflucion and further loosens up the material of Himalayas.

• Himalayas are also much higher than the Alp which increase the intensity when an earthquake takes place.

• Dams induce Reservoir Seismicity also.

(★) The scientists have predicted a large-scale earthquake in northern India due to following reasons:

① Recent earthquake swarms
↳ continuous but low intensity earthquakes.

② Extensive degration of natural balance by dams built on almost all rivers.

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* Some prominent earthquake forecasting techniques are as follows :-

(1)

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14. Highlighting India's vulnerability to droughts, discuss the major guidelines of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for management of droughts. **(250 words) 15**

सूखे के प्रति भारत की सुभेद्यता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, सूखा प्रबंधन के लिए राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (NDMA) के प्रमुख दिशा-निर्देशों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

More than 50% of India's land is drought prone. Reasons for it are:-

① Over dependence on Monsoon
↳ 67% of land is rainfed.

② Vagaries of Monsoon
↳ It is a complex phenomenon which depend on so many factors that an 100% accurate forecast is nearly impossible.
↳ Even IMD gives 2 predictions for monsoon every year.

③ Unsustainable water use
↳ Agriculture
- Over exploitation of ground water and canals.

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- Flood irrigation
- Focus on paddy (water intensive) cultivation.

Households / Industries

- → no sewage treatment
- → directly disposing pollutants to rivers and contaminating fresh water.

(4) Defective Urban Planning

- → No rain water harvesting
- → Over concretization
- → Encroachment over wetlands

(5) Deforestation

- → Soil erosion and increased problems of rainfall variation.

(6) 12% of world population but only 1% of fresh water resources.

(7) Climate change has further accelerated the problem.

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Guidelines given by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to manage droughts:

① State governments can declare drought when some of the mentioned scientific criteria are fulfilled.

② Mitigation Measures: • Insurance for farmers
• Encourage farmers to adopt scientifically proven irrigation practices e.g. drip irrigation
• Recycling of waste water by households and industries.

③ Rehabilitation Measures:
• Provision for water availability through tankers and pipelines.

④ Structural changes
• Compulsory rainwater harvesting structures
• Scientific management of dams and reservoirs, before and after the monsoon

⑤ Crop diversification by farmers and soil conservation techniques

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15. Describe the mechanism of formation, movement and dissipation of tropical cyclones. In this context, explain why the recent 'Titli' cyclone was termed as 'rarest of rare' by IMD. **(250 words) 15**

उष्णकटिबंधीय चक्रवातों के निर्माण, संचलन और क्षय की प्रणाली का वर्णन कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, व्याख्या कीजिए कि हाल ही में आए 'तितली' चक्रवात को IMD द्वारा क्यों 'दुर्लभ में दुर्लभतम' (रेयरेस्ट ऑफ रेयर) कहा गया था।

Tropical cyclones are large scale weather phenomenon with 10% of India's land-mass and over 14 coastal states/Union territories vulnerable to them.

Mechanism of formation :

(*) Necessary conditions for its formations

1. Warm sea water (> 27°C)
2. Nearby low pressure region
3. Uniform vertical wind speed
4. Presence of Coriolis force
5. Upper air divergence should be allowed to take up moist moisture from below.
6. Formed only over oceans (not on land).

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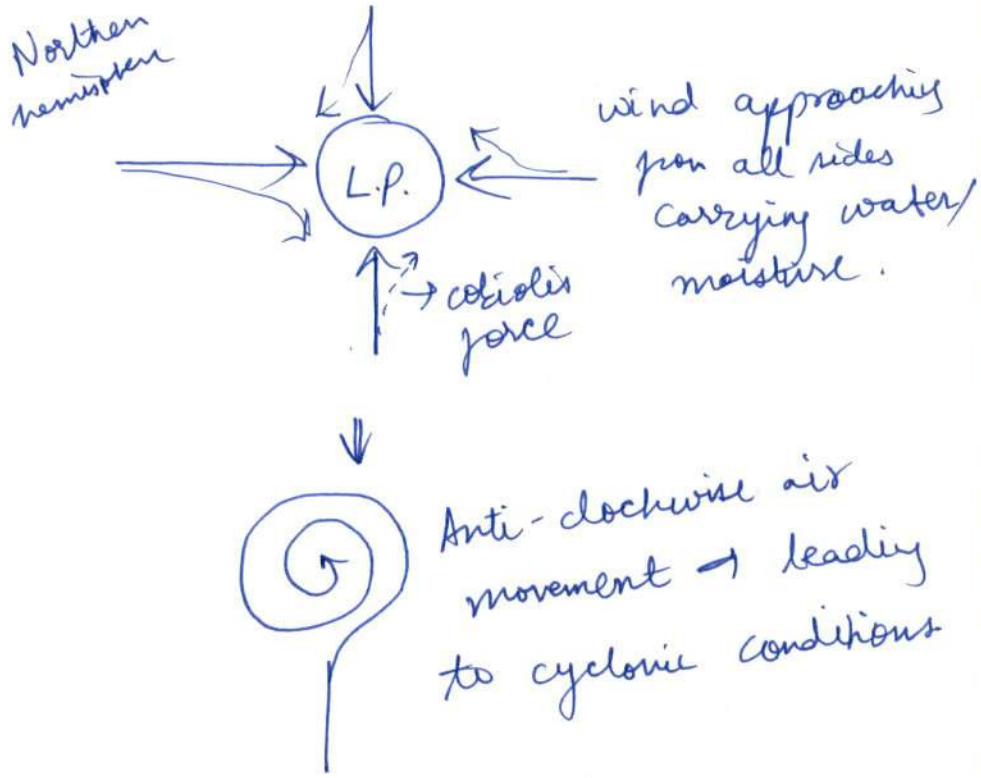
(★) The warm sea surface leads to formation of a depression (low pressure) region, creating cyclonic conditions.



(★) While coming in, the air accumulates the moisture over sea water further strengthening the walls of the cyclone. The cyclone becomes self sufficient.

(★) <u>Movement of cyclone and dissipation</u>

→ The near by low Pressure area (usually the thermal equator or the ITCZ),

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attracts the cyclone towards it and makes a landfall (region where cyclone touches the land). This area experience high destruction due to high winds speed. But, once the cyclone reaches land, the moisture which it was gaining from sea water stops. This finally leads to its dissipation.

(*) Sometimes, the cyclone may recurve due to the prevailing local winds / coriolis force. This is called recurvature of cyclone. This makes the cyclone even more destructive as it again acquires the self-sufficient capability by gaining moisture from sea surface. But it occurs very rarely.

It is because of this reason that 'Titli' was called rarest of rare cyclone by IMD because it followed the recurvature pattern and thus bringing higher destruction.

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16. What are the forces that drive the movement of lithospheric plates? In this context, identify the different types of plate boundaries based on their nature of interaction with suitable examples of the characteristic features formed along them. **(250 words) 15**

स्थलमंडलीय प्लेटों को संचलित करने वाले बल कौन-से हैं? इस संदर्भ में, उनके किनारे निर्मित अभिलाक्षणिक विशेषताओं के उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ उनकी अंतरक्रिया की प्रकृति पर आधारित विभिन्न प्रकार की प्लेट सीमाओं की पहचान कीजिए।

The plate tectonics theory in 1967 finally settled the debate about plate movements and their reasons/ forces responsible for it.

Before it, Alfred Wegner in 1912 proposed that the polfluncht (centripetal force) and movement of tides, due to movement of Earth in West to East direction, the landmass moves towards equator and to the Eastern direction. However, this was proven wrong by the sea floor spreading theory and finally by the Plate tectonics theory which proposed the following forces :-

(★) The convectional currents in the upper mantle perform 2 functions of

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moving the plates and separation of magma on the basis of density.

(*) Thus, it is not only the continental landmass that is floating over the molten mantle but also the oceanic landmass.

(*) This is the most important force.

Different types of plate boundaries and their characteristic features :-

① Continental - Continental Convergence

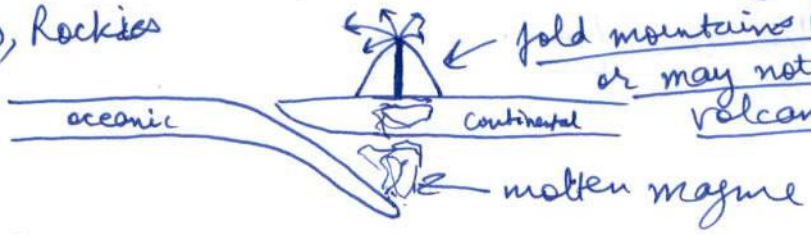
- no subduction
- fold mountains

Eg. → Himalayas, Alps, etc.

② Continental - Oceanic Convergence

- oceanic (denser) plate gets subducted leading to following features :

Eg. Andes, Rockies



(*) fold mountains (may or may not be volcanic)

- fold mountains due to less dense and softer continental plate gets compressed.

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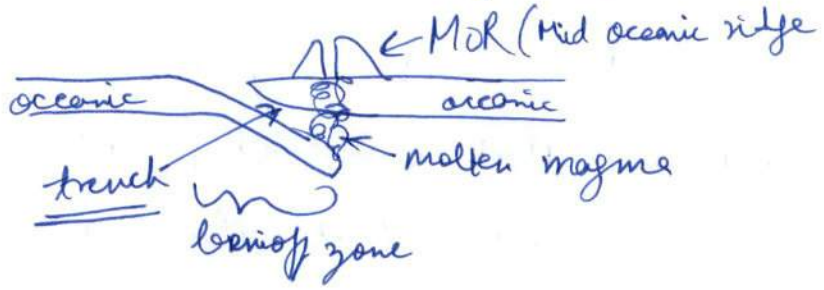
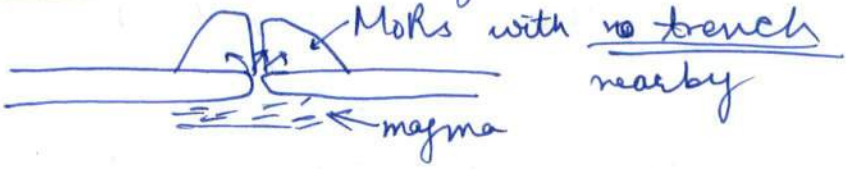
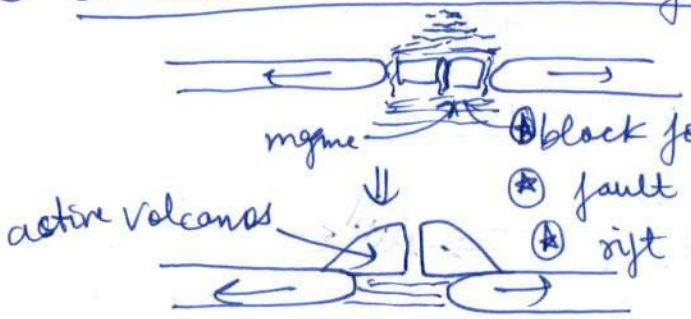
③ Oceanic - oceanic Convergence: denser plate gets subducted but no folding take place



④ Oceanic - Oceanic divergence



⑤ Continental - Continental divergence



- block formation
- fault formation
- rift valleys are formed when there is no magma entrusion

Eg. Narmada, Tapi flowing through Vindhya, Satpura rifts.

⑥ Transform plate boundaries in Continental Continental: Eg. San Andreas fault, Chilean fault, etc.

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17. Explain the role of river as a geomorphic agent with suitable examples of landforms formed during its course of flow. **(250 words) 15**

नदी प्रवाह के दौरान निर्मित होने वाले भू-आकृतियों के उपयुक्त उदाहरणों सहित भू-आकृतिक कारक के रूप में नदी की भूमिका की व्याख्या कीजिए।

Rivers constitute the most important geomorphic agent for any ecosystem.

- It provides a huge helping hand for ecosystem balance to be maintained and achieved.
- But not only this, as a geomorphic agent also, it is extremely significant due to following reasons :-

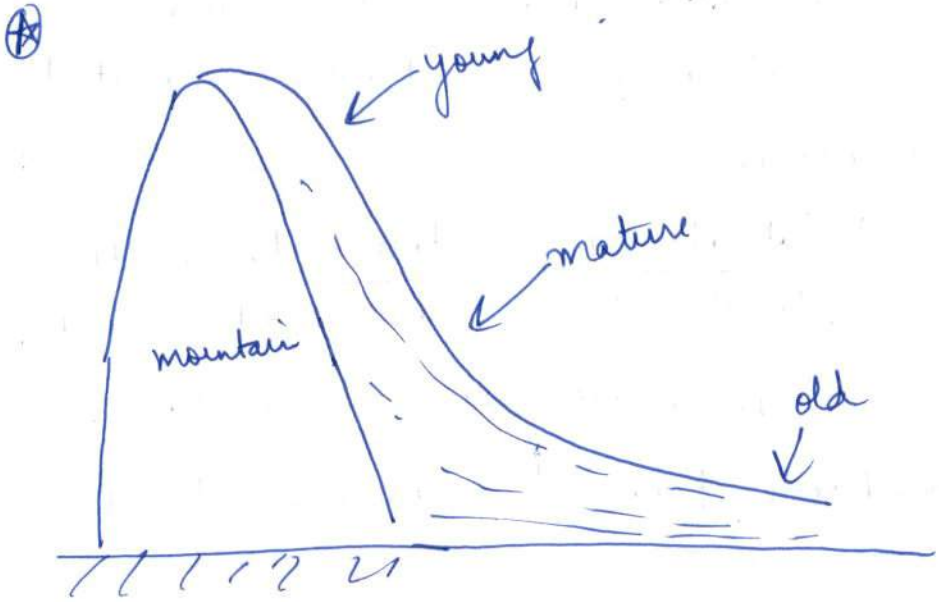

Figure : life of a river

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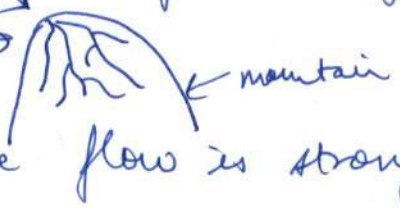
★ Landforms formed in young phase:-

① Mostly erosional features:

E.g. Alluvial fans, deeper valleys, bajadas →



- This is because the flow is strong and capable of eroding almost everything.

★ Land forms in mature phase:-

① Depositional

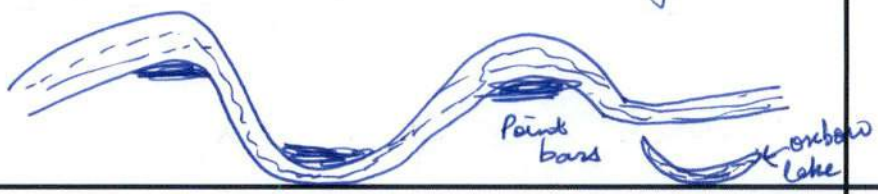
- big rocks are deposited under which river disappears.
- Oxbow lakes due to meandering
- at low part, kankars are deposited

② Erosional

- lateral erosion dominates as the plains/valleys become wider (not deeper unlike the young phase).

★ Meandering becomes a common feature

Meanders



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★ Landforms in old/phase :-

① Depositional
- everything is deposited: silt, clay, small rocks/pebbles.
- deltas are formed and land moves towards the sea

② Erosional
- not much erosion takes place.

★ In this phase, flooding takes place regularly, this leads to the deposition of new soil/silt and hence increasing its fertility. Also, after few floods, natural levees are formed on the boundaries of the rivers.

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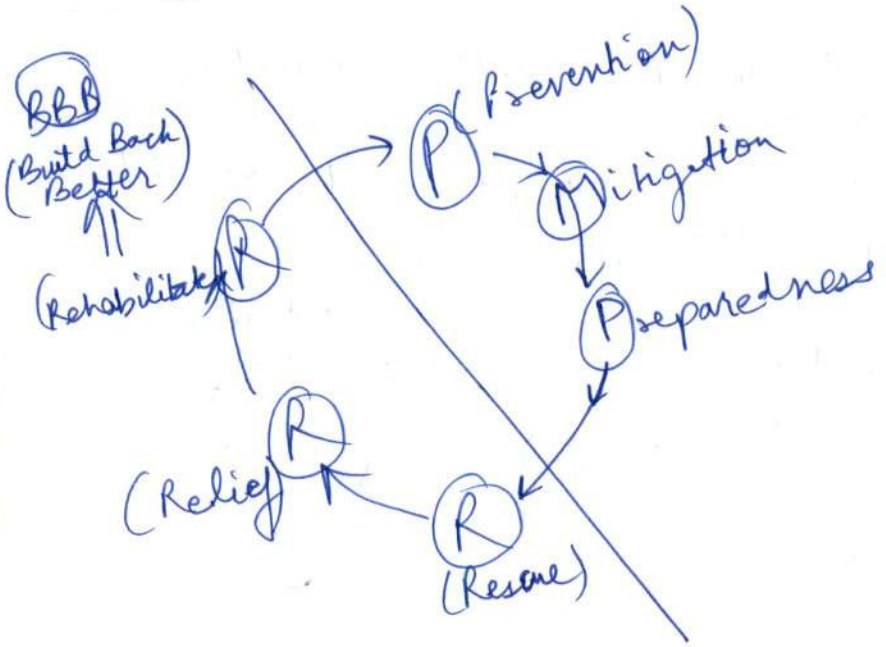
18. What is Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)? Highlight its main principles, features and significance for resilient disaster preparedness in India. **(250 words) 15**

समुदाय आधारित आपदा प्रबंधन (CBDM) क्या है? भारत में लचीली (रिज़िल्यन्ट) आपदा तैयारियों हेतु मुख्य सिद्धांतों, विशेषताओं और महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) can be defined as involvement of the community, civil society, NGOs, local leaders, etc. in the process of disaster management. They must be considered as equal stakeholders in all the phases of disaster management namely :-



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Thus, it main significance is :-

① Active civil society → equal partners

② social capital will increase

③ No rumour mongering because the citizens will be involved at every step.

④ Increased transparency → better and more effective results.

⑤ Priority of rehabilitation will be decided by them
- → increased effectiveness
- → better knowledge of ground realities.

⑥ Government will get a helping hand
- → its economic resources are not unlimited
- → human resources when cooperate

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with the locals will prove to be much more efficient.

(7) Vulnerable sections will get due attention

→ The recent example of Kerala re-building (even without the much help of center) due to active citizenry has set a landmark and a glorious example to the world about what an effective partnership between

- a good political leadership
- trained human/economic resource
- public participation/active citizenry

can achieve together.

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19. Differentiate between eustatic and isostatic type of sea-level changes. Also, discuss the resultant landforms which are likely to be formed as a result of sea-level fluctuations. **(250 words) 15**

सुस्थितिक और समस्थितिक प्रकार के सागर तल परिवर्तनों के मध्य अंतर स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, सागर-तल के उतार-चढ़ाव के परिणामस्वरूप निर्मित होने वाली संभावित परिणामी भू-आकृतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

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20. Discuss the vulnerabilities of urban areas to disasters. What measures have been taken to minimise the losses in such areas during disasters? What further improvements would you suggest to make them more resilient?

(250 words) 15

आपदाओं के प्रति शहरी क्षेत्रों की सुभेद्यताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। आपदाओं के दौरान ऐसे क्षेत्रों में होने वाली क्षति को न्यून करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए गए हैं? आप उन्हें और अधिक लचीला (रिज़िल्यन्ट) बनाने के लिए क्या उपाय सुझाएंगे?

Urbans area have become more vulnerable to disasters such as

- urban fires, • epidemics,
- urban flood
- Water scarcity
- Heat waves, etc.

This due to following reasons :-

① Inadequate urban planning

② Old building prone to collapse and fires

③ Ever increasing migration

- ↑ population density
- ↑ slums → unhygienic and unsafe
- breeding ground for epedemics such as dengue, malaria, etc.

④ Water scarcity due to

- over consumption
- no- recycling.

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- irresponsible consumption
- not following the rain-water harvesting technique.
- over-concretization has stopped water percolation and thus no ground water rejuvenation.
- encroachment of wetlands, etc.

Measures to be taken to minimize losses:

① Build Back Better (World Bank's technique to retrofit the old buildings or infrastructure damaged in disasters).

② Implementing the NDMA guidelines and 10 point Action Agenda given by the PM

③ Follow building codes, 2016 and government officials should be trained to monitor them effectively.

④ Urban planning should be kept on priority.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1234)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	149136
Center	Delhi	Date	2/08/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
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6	10	
7	10	
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19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Explaining the reasons behind India's lower female labour force participation rates (LFPR), list the steps that have been taken to augment it. What more needs to be done? **(150 Words) 10**

भारत की निम्न महिला श्रमबल भागीदारी दर (LFPR) के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इसे बढ़ाने हेतु उठाए गए कदमों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। साथ ही, बताइए कि इस दिशा में और क्या किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

The Periodic Labor Force Participation Survey (1st in 2019) by NSSO has stated that India's female labor force participation has been at historic low (~24%).

Reasons for low LFPR :-

① Increase in household income
↳ as the income increased, women were pushed back to the household as their labor was needed only to supplement the low income

②

③ Issues of security and safety at the workplace or on the way to work

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in general. Eg. women are usually forced to work nearby / face sexual harrasment.

(4) Glass Ceiling effect

(5) Higher participation in higher education

(6) Increased education / skills leads to more expectations and leads to voluntary unemployment

Steps that have been taken:

(1) Women in STEM programme, KIRAN

(2) Legal → Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act
→ Maternity Benefit Act (2016)

(3) Promoting Women SHGs / Cooperatives
↳ Eg. GeM, PSUs mandated to buy from them.

Following can be done to enhance LFPR further

(1) Implementation of laws strictly.

(2) Change in Societal Mindset where women are not considered as "sexual labor" (Kate Millet)

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2. Parliamentary scrutiny over public finance is an important aspect of governmental accountability. In this context, discuss the role, importance and challenges in establishing a Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) for effective oversight of budgetary process. **(150 words) 10**

लोक वित्त की संसदीय संवीक्षा सरकारी जवाबदेही का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है। इस संदर्भ में, बजटीय प्रक्रिया की प्रभावी निगरानी हेतु संसदीय बजट कार्यालय (पार्लियामेंट्री बजट ऑफिस: PBO) की भूमिका, महत्व और उसकी स्थापना में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 266 of the Indian constitution mandates that Parliament is the sole custodian of Consolidated Fund of India. This way the legislature can hold the executive accountable over public finances.

However, various issues have emerged in this mechanism such as - executive becoming all powerful / master of legislature post 10th Schedule (Anti-defection), etc.

Thus, experts have proposed Parliamentary Budget Office which has following advantages:

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① Inclusion of Experts in BPO

② Technicalities of budget can be discussed more deeply

③ Laymen in Parliament can be guided and made aware of budget provisions and can take well informed decision

④ Opposition - "vital for vibrant democracy (Nehru) - will get a chance to express itself more thoughtly.

However, following points need to be pondered upon before constituting BPO :

① It should be an independent and autonomous body out of 10th schedule.

② Should not overlap with duties of Parliamentary committees.

③ Efficient functioning and structure so that it does not become just another useless layer.

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3. Highlight the various challenges faced by MSMEs in accessing credit. Also, mention some of the recent steps taken by the government and RBI to address this issue. **(150 words) 10**

ऋण तक पहुँच स्थापित करने में MSMEs द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली विभिन्न चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए सरकार और RBI द्वारा हाल ही में उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

MSMEs contribute to about 38% of our GDP, 43% to manufacturing and 40% to exports employing more than 25% of our workforce.

However it faces following challenges in accessing credit:

① Unorganised accounting → no book maintenance

② Risky businesses
↳ not enjoying economies of scale

③ Credential of management
↳ not very high as most of them do not have any collateral or a high working experience.

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To solve the issue, government and RBI have taken following steps:

① RBI's TReDS platform, SAMBANDH

② 59 minute loan portal
↳ upto 10 lakhs loan online.

③ MUDRA Yojana, interest subvention

④ MSME Fund in ~~NABARD~~ SIDBI
↳ worth 2000 crore rupees

⑤ Tax exemptions / Rationalisation
↳ eg. Composition Scheme in GST

⑥ Priority Sector lending

→ MSMEs form the backbone of inclusive growth and thus, their dilapidated conditions need to be revived as soon as possible by affirmative actions.

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4. By rebalancing project risks between the public and private sectors, the HAM model has encouraged investments in the road infrastructure sector. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रकों के मध्य परियोजना जोखिमों को पुनर्संतुलित कर, HAM मॉडल ने सड़क अवसंरचना क्षेत्रक में निवेश को प्रोत्साहित किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Since the pockets of government are not infinite, it promoted the PPP model post 1991 liberalisation and privatisation reforms. However, the model was packed with issues which led to the adoption of HAM model.

HAM (Hybrid Annuity) Model is the one in which the government pays 40% of the project cost up front while the private player pays remaining 60% which can be returned to him annually in some fixed amounts as per the progress.

Thus, it has solved the issues by

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redistributing the risks such as:

① Government becomes a partner in profit or loss. Thus, the environmental clearance / land acquisition risks are with the government (which was all with the private player in PPP).

② Also, the private party pays only 60% of the cost which is also not risky ROI as government pays it rather than depending on performance of the project (eg. in BOT model).

Thus, HAM has given boost to road infrastructure projects - both brownfield / greenfield - eg. the Bharatmala, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, Green Highways, etc - all of which are being funded by HAM.

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5. In view of the growing significance of FinTech innovations, discuss the potential and challenges of mainstreaming FinTech in Indian economy.

(150 words) 10

फिनटेक (FinTech) नवाचारों के बढ़ते महत्व को देखते हुए, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में फिनटेक को मुख्यधारा में लाने की संभावनाओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

FinTech or Financial Technology has become the major discussing point eg. in the Bali FinTech Agenda (2018) due to its significance ~~major~~ for Indian economy :-

① Backbone of Industrial Revolution 4.0
↳ IoT, Blockchain, AI → all need FinTech innovations.

② Financial inclusion → inclusive growth

③ decreased transaction cost → increased ease of doing business.

④ Transparency : by the public ledger of crypto currencies, etc

⑤ Transformation to organised sector from

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unorganised (currently 92%) becomes easier.

⑥ Efficiency of DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer), achievement of Digital India programme, etc will be possible.

⑦ India's expertise in software can be the boost for it.

However, various challenges are also present in mainstreaming ~~FT~~ Fin Tech:

① Financial and digital literacy very low

② Skills (IMF's 'Prepared Talent' Index → India's rank is 113/130 with only 4.5% skilled workforce): would not be able to sustain Fin Tech's rapid innovation

③ Increasing inequality even more → a divide between haves-have nots

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6. With India striving to achieve its development objectives, examine how blue economy can help in pursuing the objectives of economic development and ecological sustainability. **(150 words) 10**

भारत द्वारा अपने विकास उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के प्रयास में, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार नीली अर्थव्यवस्था आर्थिक विकास और पारिस्थितिकीय संधारणीयता के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायता कर सकती है।

Blue economy can be defined as the "sustainable use of marine / water resources such as (but not limited to) the energy of oceans, fisheries, metals of ocean crust, etc". (UNCLOS)

It can be essential part for the India's development journey in following ways :-

① Economic Development

- India is 2nd largest producer of fisheries.
- It goal of "doubling incomes of fishermen" and "tripling the export" of the

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value added agri products by 2022 can be achieved.

→ Poly metallic nodules : increased manufacturing industry

→ Energy security

→ reduced dependence on oil/gas imports from west asia

→ "a 10% of energy in India's EEZ is sufficient for 100 years power supply" (PM Modi)

② Ecological sustainability

→ Port led development – "Sagarmala" can lead to a balance between sustainable use of environment as well as increase the ease of doing business.

→ ban on trawler / exploitative fishing

→ Maintenance of mangroves / coral reefs by making a symbiotic relationship with them.

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7. Despite many advantages associated with Electric Vehicles, there are many technical and commercial challenges for mainstreaming them. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों से संबद्ध कई लाभों बावजूद, उन्हें मुख्यधारा में लाने के मार्ग में कई तकनीकी और व्यावसायिक चुनौतियाँ हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Electric Vehicles have become the talk of the town specially after the huge budget push in 2018-19 for them.

They have following advantages:

① Environmental friendly → vehicular emissions will reduce which will help the government to control air pollution and achieve the Paris Agreements INDC.

② Employment → with a well developed automobile industry, a lead in EV manufacturing can result in huge opportunities for employment, becoming a

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global exporter, reap the benefits of the demographic dividend by infusing of higher skills.

(3) Translate to a innovation based - knowledge economy.

(4) Energy security of India will be enhanced (→ decreased oil/gas dependence)

However, there are some challenges as well:

(1) Charging infrastructure
↳ needs huge investment and can come from government only initially.

(2) Raw material → the Lithium batteries are imported as India has no source of Lit.

(3) Reluctance of automobile industry → it is already under stress due to low sales.

(4) Lack of skills → the human resource is not ready/skilled enough for such innovations

(5) Head start to the Europe/USA.

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8. A rapidly changing economic structure and demography require a comprehensive employment policy to address the multitude of challenges that might arise in future. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**

तेजी से बदलती आर्थिक संरचना और जनसांख्यिकी को भविष्य में व्युत्पन्न हो सकने वाली अनेक चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए एक व्यापक रोजगार नीति की आवश्यकता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Periodic Labor Force Survey by NSSO (2019) has shown unemployment rising to 6.1% - an unprecendented level since last 40 years.

This has necessitated to formulate a comprehensive economic policy because :-

① Chanig economic structure has throw challenges such as

- Industrial revolution 4.0 threatening the jobs of low skilled
- A move from informal to formal needs more skills and education.
- Higher incomes of the households have

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led to demand of higher wage jobs while the jobs are being created only in the construction sector. This leads to voluntary unemployment due to mismatch of supply and demand.

② Changing demography → with more than 14 states reaching the total fertility rate of less than 2.1, India have a small window (upto 2045) to reap the benefits. Moreover, the distribution of youth/workforce between North - South states create a new challenge to balance it via internal migration.

Thus, after failure of various policies in increasing the job prospects, only a holistic employment policy can transform this "jobless growth"

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9. Examine the need for a comprehensive policy on e-commerce in view of its domestic expansion as well as safeguarding India's interests globally.

(150 words) 10

ई-कॉमर्स पर एक व्यापक नीति की आवश्यकता का इसके घरेलू विस्तार के साथ-साथ वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत के हितों की सुरक्षा को देखते हुए परीक्षण कीजिए।

e-Commerce has been expected to grow to about 200 Billion USD sector by 2020. Its rapid expansion has pushed for the need of a comprehensive policy while other factors include:

① Data Colonialism → with the western world MNCs engaging in huge mining of data while earning huge profits and exploiting the powerless citizens.

② Data Privacy → the Cambridge Analytica scandal shows that how big a blow can be received if the financial data of the

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users is undermined. This could lead to huge safety and security issues for the state itself with risk financial crimes / cyber-security threats

③ USA/ European Union pushing for the e-commerce policy at WTO undermine India's interests globally.

④ Grievance Redressal Mechanism for the users that should be quick and dependable.

⑤ The policy is also necessary to save the smaller retailers who do not have deep pockets to give steep discounts but have huge employed workforce.

Thus, the draft e-Commerce (2019) policy must be finalised at the earliest now.

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10. Discuss the need for deepening bond markets for Indian economy. Also, identify the reasons behind weak development of bond market in India.

(150 words) 10

भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बॉण्ड बाजारों को व्यापक बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में बॉण्ड बाजार के अल्प विकसित होने के कारणों की पहचान कीजिए।

Bond Markets / Capital markets usually engage in long term loans / financing services at the market determined interest rates. Thus, there is huge need for deepening bonds markets in India because:

① Banks over dependence must be reduced
- they are already in bad condition
- cushioning effect can be provided by Bond market

② Huge investment requirement of the economy. Eg. Economic Survey (2019) stating the required ~~number~~ amount

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for infrastructure annually to be at 200 Billion USD.

↳ This huge amount is impossible to be generated from just one source

(3) ↳ moreover, the loans are needed for long term and at cheaper interest for which bond market is best.

(4) Can increase FDI/FPI → forex

(*) Reasons behind weak development of bond markets:

(1) low awareness about it and lack of confidence in citizens for corporated
↳ stigmatized capitalism

(2) low push from the government policies.

(3) Corporates have also become wary as the last few bond issuance were under subscribed.

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11. In the context of IL&FS crisis, explain the risks that the economy faces due to laxity in the regulation of the Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

(250 words) 15

IL&FS संकट के संदर्भ में, गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों (NBFCs) के विनियमन में शिथिलता के कारण अर्थव्यवस्था के समक्ष आने वाले जोखिमों की व्याख्या कीजिए।

IL&FS is the "systematically important NBFC" for Indian economy and its recent crisis was called as the "Lehmann Brothers moment" for India.

It had "ripple effect" over whole economy with liquidity crunch, increased outflow of credit from mutual funds and even the capital market (FPIs) as well as a big blow was possible to the Banks and other investors.

NBFCs can be defined as the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and are engaged in businesses

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of loans and advances, investment, etc. but not in sale/purchase of goods, agriculture or industrial activity."

They have become a crucial part of Indian economy by providing "a cushioning effect" to flow of credit when the Banks are ridden with NPAs (15%).

However, NBFCs' laxity in regulation was also visible in the crisis:

① Under reporting
↳ The control of regulatory bodies was found to weak as balance books were not monitored.

② Auditing and Credit Rating Agencies
↳ none pointed out the deteriorating condition of IL&FS

③ Unethical Corporate governance → huge

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paycheck were given to management even when the company was making loss.

(4) Asset Liability Mismatch → short term credit but give long term debt

(5) Overlapping regulatory jurisdiction

↳ not just by RBI but various other bodies such as SEBI, NHB, IRDA, etc are involved in regulating NBFCs

↳ "Everyone's responsibility is no one's responsibility".

→ An overhaul of the regulatory structure with stricter implementation of existing rules such as for Auditors (by NFRA) and SEBI's Credit Rating Agency Rules, etc. is the need of the hour to prevent any further shocks.

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12. What do you understand by Universal Basic Income (UBI)? Discuss the advantages that it presents over the existing social protection schemes in India. Also, identify the criticism associated with the idea of UBI for a country like India. **(250 words) 15**

सार्वभौमिक मूलभूत आय (यूनिवर्सल बेसिक इनकम: UBI) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में वर्तमान सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं की तुलना में इसके द्वारा प्रस्तुत किए जाने वाले लाभों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत जैसे एक देश के लिए UBI के विचार से संबद्ध आलोचना की पहचान कीजिए।

Universal Basic Income can be defined as the 'basic' income that will be given to all individuals without any discrimination on the basis of caste, sex, age, place of birth, religion, ~~etc~~. economic status, etc. However the 'basic's definition is a widely contested concept.

Advantages of UBI :-

(1) Inclusive growth → will be able to provide a basic life of dignity for all.

(2) No exclusion errors → such as in the

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

current subsidy programmes of PDS, MSP, etc. which are cornered by the rich.

③ Decreased human interference → no corruption / red tapism by bureaucrats

④ "Welfare state" → basic structure of the Indian Constitution.

⑤ Right of individual
↳ "untied funds" will give individual the liberty to spend the money when she wants to.

⑥ Insurance against emergency situations as it will act as "cushioning effect"

However there are various criticism associated with UBI also :-

① Regressive : given to those who do not

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over need it. This leads to wastage of resources → bad governance → Fiscal deficit

② Issues in DBT
↳ authentication / connectivity problems
↳ wrong transfers (eg. MGNREGA 30% funds in Jharkhand).

③ ↳ Banks / Financial inclusion → still not 100% and even when it reaches, there is no doorstep service possible.

④ Patriarchal society → men can overpower women/children to fulfill his wasteful expenses. ⑤ No motivation to work
↳ 'free money'

Despite of criticism, the concept of UBI must be widely discussed to transform it into a viable option such as the "Minimum Basic Income" (proposed by Arvind Subramaniam)

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13. Critically examine the practice of resorting to farm loan waivers as a means to alleviate agricultural distress. **(250 words) 15**

कृषि संकट को कम करने के एक साधन के रूप में कृषि ऋण माफी का सहारा लेने की प्रथा का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Farm loans waivers can be defined as the practice of the government overtaking the debt of farmers in the situation of agricultural distress.

The practice has following advantages :-

① Decreased burden on farmers
- already in huge debt
- growth of agriculture is slowest of all sectors in economy
- land fragmentation (Agriculture Census 2015-2016) has added to the risk of lower production/productivity.

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② NPAs of Banks

↳ Currently, Rs. 60000 crores from the ~~banks~~ agriculture can be cleared off in one go.

③ Increased rural consumption

↳ boost to rural economy and starting of the virtuous cycle of consumption-investment.

④ Various tax exemptions / waivers given to huge industrialists as well so why not to the farmers.

However, farm loans waiver have faced huge criticism:

① Populist measure

② Short term effect - long term issues

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

③ Moral Hazard → The farmers in future do not pay in anticipation of waiver even they have the capacity to do so.

④ Decrease in Bank's willingness to lend

⑤ Increased Fiscal deficit, decrease macro-economic stability

⑥ Benefits only the rich farmers as the small/marginal get loans from money lenders.

→ Economists such as Nachiket Mor have suggested to ban loan waivers and rather increase the priority sector lending. Agriculturalists leaders such as Yogendra Yadav and MS Swaminathan too vouch for the overhauling reforms – efficient usage of subsidies, increased MSP, procurement, etc. rather than giving a "dole instead of holding the hand"

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14. Highlight the factors responsible for rise in the number of start-ups in India in recent years. Analyzing the challenges in the existing start-up ecosystem, suggest some measures to resolve them. **(250 words) 15**

विगत वर्षों में भारत में स्टार्ट-अप की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्तमान स्टार्ट-अप पारितंत्र की चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण करते हुए, उनका समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

DIPP has defined Start Ups as "the companies engaged in innovative works of production/ providing of services and are not more than 10 years old with annual turnover of less than 50 crores Rupees".

In the recent times there has been an exponential rise of the no. of start ups in India due to following reasons:

① Higher education → combined with the creative determination of innovators and increased aspiration of youth.

② Digital world → new avenues; globalisation has opened new doors to prosperity.

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③ Tremendous push from the government
↳ Eg. Start Up India, Hackathons, tax holidays, credit, etc.

④ From employment seekers to job creators

However, they have also faced following challenges:

① CII: only "1 out of 100000" start ups can sustain over a period of 3 years and only "1 in a million" have become successful.

② Implementation of programmes
↳ bottlenecks due to policy uncertainity eg. the issue of "Angel Tax"
↳ bureaucratic hurdles / red tapism

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(3) Lack of funding facilities

(4) Competition from deep pocketed MNCs

(5) Lack of technical/incubation facilities which can provide a complete ecosystem.

→ Following measures can be taken:

(1) Increased academia - Start Up - Corporate linkage programme/conferences where NITI Aayog can play huge role.

(2) Implementation of the programmes such as Start Up India, Stand Up India on ground efficiently is the key as these are holistic in their approach and has capability to transform the start-up ecosystem.

(3) Collaboration with international partners (→ Eg. India-Netherland (INDUS)) for technology transfer, funding, etc

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15. Discuss the idea of participatory budgeting and its significance for India. Also, identify the challenges in mainstreaming participatory budgeting in India. **(250 words) 15**

पार्टिसिपेटरी बजटिंग के विचार और भारत के लिए इसके महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में पार्टिसिपेटरी बजटिंग को मुख्यधारा में लाने के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए।

Participatory budgeting is the "bottom up approach" (as opposed to the traditional top down approach) in which the "annual financial statement" (Article 112) is prepared by thorough discussions, deliberation and participation of the citizens.

Its significance for India is as:

① Participatory democracy → accountability

② Increased active and well informed citizenry

↳ deepening of democracy as well

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well as widening of democracy by inclusion of ideas / demands / needs of all the stakeholders.

(3) A balanced budget : "piece meal approach" would be possible by following the principle of subsidiarity.

- The war of Bharat (Rural India) vs the new India (Urban) can be resolved
- increased cooperative federalism

(4) Decreased inequality by inclusive growth
- increased human capital

(5) growth and development for all sectors will be evenly distributed — regionally (eg. North East) as well as economically (eg. Agriculture).

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However, various challenges are faced in it:

① Active citizen participation is needed
↳ citizens are either not interested or not aware/illiterate or too much occupied with personal lives.

② Too big geographically
↳ eg. possible in Switzerland, not India

③ Too vast diversity
↳ eg. might lead to communal tensions and blame) the state to be biased.

④ Satisfaction of all is not possible

⑤ Time constraints make it possible for only the expert views be taken into account for various sectors

A balance between the two approaches ~~the~~ is the need of the hour.

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16. Can the consolidation of banks help in stemming the existing problems in the banking sector? Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

क्या बैंकों का समेकन बैंकिंग क्षेत्रक में वर्तमान समस्याओं से निपटने में सहायता कर सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

Banks form the backbone for any economy. They are "engines of growth" by extending the virtuous cycle of investment savings – growth – productivity – employment – increased income, etc

However, Indian banks have faced challenges such as:

① Inability to achieve the Basel Norms due to rising NPAs (about 15% in 2018)

② Corporate governance has degraded: led to corporate - banking nexus and thus huge corruption. eg. PNB scandal

③ Too weak to take risks

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(4) High / waste manpower while low on technology → wasteful expenditure.
→ overly opening of bank branches leading to higher costs.

(5) Regulatory issues
↳ RBI unable to monitor all of them specially PSBs → too many in number.

⇒ To solve these issues, government has undertaken Bank Consolidation (on the recommendations of Narsimhan Committee II).
Through this,

(1) Overall health of banks will increase.
(2) Technology can be transferred and utilised more efficiently while the manpower can be trained or offloaded in long term.
(3) PSBs will not eat into each other's business

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(4) Branches can be consolidated to decrease the capital expenditure.

(5) Ability to decrease NPAs, take bigger risks, handle bigger losses will increase. E.g. recent amalgamation of Bank of Baroda with Dena and Vijaya Bank will lead to fulfillment of CRAR ratios as well as increased geographical reach.

⇒ Thus, consolidation is the good way to achieve the goal of 3-4 global banks in India but it is not the panacea that can solve all the problems.

It has to be undertaken mindfully considering that weak-strong are not merged in such a way that overall strength is decreased or the financial inclusion is impacted. RBI's leading role would be necessary.

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17. There is a high cost of compliance as well as complexities associated with existing labour laws at centre and state levels. Discuss. What steps have recently been taken by the central government to address these challenges? **(250 words) 15**

केंद्र और राज्य स्तरों पर वर्तमान श्रम कानूनों के साथ अनुपालन की उच्च लागत के साथ-साथ जटिलताएँ भी जुड़ी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा हाल में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

Labor laws form a crucial determinant for investors / industrialists and thus determine the growth of the nation as a whole.

Labor laws of India are blamed to be the major reason for its "premature deindustrialisation" by Economic Survey (2019)

They are heavily tilted towards the protection of labor's rights, show an outdated view of Indian economy and impose huge cost of compliance such as

① Rigidity → still works on the acts that are more than 50 years

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old. Eg. Industrial Disputes (1948).

② Complexity

- Labor is a concurrent subject
- More than 200 laws at both center and state are present.
- Eg. Minimum Wages Acts of center and state have 700+ and 1300+ provisions as per various sectors

③ Laws such as Trade Union Act, etc provide a "perverse incentive" for the small to stay small and unorganised to never become organised.

- Eg. to lay off a worker, permission has to be taken from the state govt.

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Steps that have been taken:

① 4 Code Bills → on wages, health and occupation conditions, employment, etc. are proposed by center to consolidate the labor laws

② Boost to Fixed Term Employment / Contractual Employment by opening it to all sectors in 2018 Rules.

③ "Hire and Fix at will" policy relaxed. E.g. now permission to fix a worker or close the operations is to be taken only if the number of worker are more than 300.

The steps taken have been in a right direction but a tight rope walk must be mapped by government to maintain rights of labor as well as of the industrialists.

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18. Why have Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India not been able to achieve the desired objectives? In this context, suggest some measures to revive SEZs in India. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र (SEZs) वांछित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में सक्षम क्यों नहीं हो पाए हैं? इस संदर्भ में, भारत में SEZs को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

SEZs can be defined as "the region within the territory of a country but the laws, rules and regulations are different for it in order to provide a favorable ecosystem to grow rapidly." (SEZ Act, 2000)

However, SEZs have not been able to achieve the desired objective as can be seen by the CAG Report (2016) who highlighted huge gap between achievements and expectation (to be more than 90% gap).

This is due to following reasons:-

① Do not enjoy economies of scale: 450+

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in India, only 10 in China. But the size of China's SEZ is more than 100 times.

(2) Outside / Peripheral Infrastructure
↳ connectivity to major port / airports is in dilapidated condition

(3) Untilised land → as highlighted by the Economic Survey (2017-18).

(4) Policy uncertainity → Eg. the taxes / labour laws prevail in SEZs

(5) Too much focussed on services : not evenly distributed for manufacturing.

(6) Too many models → Eg. Coastal Economic Zones, Mega Food Parks, etc.

(7) Unfavorable domestic sales → Eg. they face custom duties when sold in India.

(8) Under too many ministries/dept : overlapping

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Baba Kalyani Committee recommendations should be the way forward :-

① Efficient Utilisation of land / resources is must which must be complemented by tax holidays / exemption.

② Inter-ministerial / department coordination must be improved by setting up an authority specifically for SEZ with members from all departments, headed by the Chief Secretary.

③ Government support is declining and this must be revived.

④ Huge investments of infrastructure to enhance Ease of doing Business and decreasing the cost of logistics (from 14% to 10% by 2022)

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19. Why has the contribution of manufacturing sector, as a percentage of the GDP, remained stagnant in the recent years? In this context, analyse the achievements of National Manufacturing Policy, 2011 with regards to its intended objectives. **(250 words) 15**

विगत वर्षों में GDP के प्रतिशत के रूप में विनिर्माण क्षेत्रक का योगदान स्थिर क्यों रहा है? इस संदर्भ में, अपने लक्षित उद्देश्यों के संबंध में राष्ट्रीय विनिर्माण नीति, 2011 की उपलब्धियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Manufacturing sector of India has "prematurely deindustrialised" as mentioned by the Economic Survey (2017-18). It contributes only about 18% to the GDP (constant over the years)

It has faced following challenges:

① Twin Balance Sheet problem
↳ Banks have become wary of lending as balance sheets of industries have worsend.

② Declining domestic demand / Consumption
↳ demand have moved to services as the income of citizens have increased

③ Declining investment / credit growth
↳ peaked in 2011 but declined to 28% in 2018 from 37% in 2011.

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(4) Industrial sickness due to policy paralysis and global shocks of 2008 → during the phase of 2011 – 2014.

(5) Rigid labor laws and the complicated tax structures give "perverse incentive" for them to not increase in size.

(6) Lack of Human Capital → low skills

→ To solve the issues, National Manufacturing Policy 2011 was formulated by the government with objectives such as

- increasing the contribution of manufacturing to 25% of GDP by 2022
- increasing skills, employment opportunities for the labor intensive industries

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However, the successes of NMP, 2011 was far from visible.

Make In India (2015) was thus launched to give a boost but the achievements of it has also been scarce - with unemployment rate increasing to all time high of 8.1% (PLFS survey (2019)) and GDP contribution still around 19%.

The reforms of 1991 have become outdated and manufacturing needs a complete overhauling so that India can become a "manufacturing hub" specially at times when China is vacating the space due to its decreasing demography and increasing wages.

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20. One of the goals that a developing economy aspires for is to bring down the Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR). In this context, what are the constraints that underlie the efficient conversion of savings rate to investments in the Indian economy? Also suggest some measures to improve this efficiency. **(250 words) 15**

एक विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्था जिन लक्ष्यों की आकांक्षा रखती है उनमें से एक वृद्धिशील पूंजी-उत्पादन अनुपात (इंक्रीमेंटल कैपिटल-आउटपुट रेश्यो: ICOR) में कमी लाना है। इस संदर्भ में, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में बचत दर के निवेश में कुशल रूपांतरण के समक्ष आने वाली बाधाएँ क्या हैं? साथ ही, इसकी कुशलता में सुधार हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) can be defined as the ~~the~~ ratio that determines the percentage increase in the output if the capital invested is increased by one percentage point.

India's ICOR = 4.1 (very high)

This value of ICOR means huge capital is needed to increase the GDP growth. This is due to the contraints that underlie the efficient conversion of savings rate to investments such as :-

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(1) Inefficient Banking structure → uses the extra saving to fund/balance its NPAs

(2) Issues in land acquisition / environmental clearances → increases the gestation period and thus the ICOR value.

(3) Saving done in physical assets such as gold, property, etc. → non-profit creating assets → money gets blocked.

(4) Door step banking services are not efficient and thus people do not save in banks

(5) Increased consumption and decreased savings rate itself has declined the conversion to investment.

Measures to improve the efficiency :-

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① Door step banking services
- financial literacy
- internet connectivity
- digital literacy

② Recapitalisation of banking assets so that credit flow is without hiccups

③ Awareness of citizens about various innovative products for savings such as Fixed deposits, mutual funds, etc. must be increased.

The smooth conversion of savings to investments is necessary to achieve the aim of the "5 Trillion USD economy" by 2025.

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INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. **(150 words) 10**

NITI Aayog - the premier think tank of Government of India was formed in 2015 as a successor to the Planning Commission.

Structure → • Chairman is the Prime Minister.
• Vice Chairman decided by the Prime Minister (holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister)
• 4 ex-officio members are the Cabinet Ministers - including the Home Minister
• NITI Aayog Governing Council
↳ all the CMs of states / Lt. Governors of the Andaman & Nicobar
• Various experts from multi dimensional fields.

Functions → • Decision are made on base of the data collection and analysis → i.e. evidence

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based policy recommendation to the government of India.

- Special focus on vulnerable sections and inclusive growth → reducing regional disparity
- Decentralisation of power
  - → cooperative and competitive federalism
  - → Eg. various indices - SDG Index, etc.

Relevance in contemporary times:

① Transforming India into a knowledge economy
↳ Innovation led growth → Eg. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

② Improving inter-ministerial coordination and State-center relations
↳ Eg. Aspirational Districts Programme.

③ Transforming Human Capital (as India is very low on HDI: 118/134) → Eg. SATH.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. **(150 words) 10**

Fast Track courts were first envisaged in 2000 to reduce the burden of cases on judiciary.

They were expected to achieve the time based targets by using their specialisation and quick investigation/prosecution for cases such as rape, terrorism, corruption, criminalization of politics, etc.

However, in the recent times, they are facing various issues:

① Lack of funds

→ center ~~state~~ governments stopped funding them after 2014. States do not have so much fund.

→ 14th Finance Commission increased States share

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to 42% and recommended states to use it for fast track courts.

② No special procedure used
↳ same slow methods of investigation as well as trials.

③ Overburden
↳ 14th FC held that about 1600 courts must be established but the current number is only 700

④ Infrastructure → sharing it with other courts

⑤ No specialisation of judges → piling of cases

However, they have been successful. Eg. the recent Kathua Rape Case (2019), 26/11 attacks and Jessica Lal Murder Case were solved and tried in record times.

Thus, they hold the key to stop the Matsanyaya (Economic Survey 2018) given they are ~~given~~ alloted perfect working conditions

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3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. **(150 words) 10**

Lower judiciary form a crucial part to establish rule of law as they are primarily responsible for enforcing the "bare bones on law". The pendency has increased to 2.9 crores.

In recent times, they are facing following challenges:-

① Appointment / Promotion

- Nepotism / Corruption in the process.
- very low chances for promotion to high Court as only 1/3rd of them are promoted, others are selected from Bar Council.
- Thus, unable to attract talent

② Infrastructure due to lack of funds

- The Delhi Tis Hazari Court was functioning without a womans toilet for last 60 years.

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↳ Various judges sharing the common courtroom is a usual sight.

③ Culture of adjournments
↳ due to laxity of judge and misuse by the lawyers

④ Lacunae in Criminal Justice System
↳ e.g. the police is unable to investigate/ collect evidence in time.

⑤ Vacancies → about 25% of posts are vacant

→ Way Forward →

① Fill up the vacancies: as recommended by the Economic Survey (2018) – more judges for criminal cases and others for civil

② All India Judicial Service (Law Commission in 1960 proposed it)

③ All India Judicial and Management Services (Economic Survey 2018 for better handling of cases)

④ Use of Technology (e-filing), monitoring by higher courts to curb the culture of "Chalta hai". ⑤ Increase funding.

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4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. **(150 words) 10**

Various legislations enacted by the government form the basis of functioning of the state and civil society.

Before their formation, a wide consultation is done through parliamentary committees, think tanks, specialised Commissions, public, etc. but the same must be formalised for post-legislative process also due to following reasons :-

① No law is permanent →

↳ Nehru - "to fix a law/rule/policy means to stop the growth of nation".

② Must be acceptable to change as per the need of society.

③ Can never be sure of output/outcome of the law before it is implemented - thus,

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a feedback loop is necessary for its smooth transformation and functioning.

↳ E.g. Official Secrets Act or the IT Act (2000) has become redundant in age of cyber world

(4) Popular sovereignity

↳ not all people can write to ministries at pre-legislative stage.

↳ They either do not have time or capability to analyse the outcomes with experiencing it practically.

↳ Thus, it becomes necessary to have grass root post legislative view.

Aristotle: "Law is fixed for a barbarian society. It must change for an organic one and organic elements must be the source of all change".

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5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. **(150 words) 10**

Artificial Intelligence – the major pillar of the 4th Industrial Revolution and Digital India Mission – has multiple objectives & advantages. One such major area where it can bring revolutionary changes is the e-governance :-

① Minimal human interference would become possible for public service delivery.

② Streamline the whole supply chain in various sectors for optimal results
↳ E. PDS, Mid Day Meal Scheme, etc

③ Transform tele-education and tele-medicine
↳ replace the teachers/doctors from the day to day routine non-productive tasks

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④ Better monitoring
↳ Eg. POSAN Abhiyan → the beneficiaries can be sent periodic messages by use of AI so that its goal is achieved.

However, it also have raised various issues:-

① No emotional intelligence in AI
↳ Eg. Complete exclusion of humans from the welfare schemes would leave vulnerable sections worse off. Their digital illiteracy would add to more issues.

② Loss of jobs → need for skilling

③ Not feasible in current situation
↳ lack of funding
↳ lack of awareness in both
- the citizens
- the public servants

★ Start it on pilot basis and escalate gradually

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6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

Public grievance redressal mechanisms (GRMs) form the backbone of the public service delivery as the efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes of all schemes depend on how fast the grievances are addressed.

Thus, government brought various reforms such as —

① Use of technology
- → Apps such as SAMADHAN for railways, SAMPARK for MSMEs, etc.
- → 24x7 hours call centers for farmers regarding various schemes, etc.

② Rationalisation and consolidation of the ministries and more autonomy to the regulatory bodies → Eg. the Competition

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Commission of India, RBI, SEBI, etc.

③ Tools such as RTI (to ensure transparency) and Citizen Charter (to ensure accountability).

④ Physical outreach by ministers to various villages eg. the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

⑤ Flexibility to the Panchayati Raj / State governments to ensure "principle of subsidiarity" (2nd ARC).

However, they suffer from following limitations:-

① Bureaucratic Apathy → elitist attitude, neglect of 'service' attitude.

② Weak trade unions / social movements
↳ not active citizenry.

③ Digital illiteracy and lack of awareness alongside infrastructural hurdles lead to failure of the e-governance models.

④ Lack of political will.

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7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it.

(150 words) 10

Factors responsible for trafficking of women and children :—

① Societal mindset (Patriarchy)

- → lack of morality
- → "broken window theory" → casual sexism leading to bigger crimes
- → women considered as man's property.

② Poverty

- → forced to sell girls / children
- → forced beggary / sex trade

③ Lacunae in intelligence / police agencies

- → coupled with judicial laxity
- → long trials → no punishment to the criminal and no justice to the victim.

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Recent steps taken :-

- Special division in Ministry of Home Affairs
- One stop centers for women in need of help
- Rehabilitation programmes for victims
- Monitoring of the Orphanages increased after the Bihar's scandal (2018).

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8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. **(150 words) 10**

Vector Borne diseases

↳ spread by the bite of vectors eg. the mosquitos, etc.

- Recently increased upto the epidemic proportions due to following factors:-

① Lack of sanitation → water collected in potholes as neglected by the municipal authorities.

② Lack of primary healthcare

③ → lack of funds
→ Lack of human resources

④ Lack of Awareness in citizens

⑤ Weak health/immunity of children eg. malnutrition

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Measures to control them:

- pro active government support to the ULBs and municipal bodies
- better supply chain management for medicine at the Ayushman Bharat centers and incentivize the human resources.
- Awareness to the people/citizens with more focus on the most vulnerable sections such as slums, etc.

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9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

India - Indonesia relations, though have been highly connected by civilizational ties eg Buddhism, Chola empire, etc., the past colonial ties of nations were never exploited upto the potential due to neglect from both sides.

In recent times they have come closer due to:

* Rapidly evolving strategic realities:
  - → China becoming more assertive in IOR
  - → India Ocean Region becoming a new area of 'great games'.
  - → Many ASEAN members looking to bandwagon with China → forcing Indonesia to look for new partners.

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↳ India too focussing on its aim of being a net security provider and SAGAR in IOR is looking for partners and Indonesia is a natural ally due to closeness with India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands and away from China's sphere of influence.

→ The closeness of relations is seen in following examples:

① Indonesia accepting India's proposal of developing Sabang naval base (on the strategic location of Strait of Malacca the major choke point).

② Indonesian PM supporting India's cause at RCEP negotiations.

③ India supplying the humanitarian aid and assistance against the terrorists occupying Indonesia islands

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10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss.
(150 words) 10

Shyam Saran calls India-Nepal relations as the "roti beti Ka rishta" due to the close civilizational and people to people contacts.

The ties saw a downturn due to the alleged blockade on borders by India in 2015, not accepting the Nepali constitution and allegation of big brotherly attitude e.g. political meddling and not negotiating the asymmetric friendship treaty.

The rise of China has further complicated the situation.

Thus, India-Nepal took following steps to reset the ties :-

① PM Modi's visit in 2017 saw signing of

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Molls on
- hydroelectricity joint production
- renegotiation of treaties
- Line of Credits increased
- removal of non-trade barriers
- increased connectivity eg. the "Twin city" projects.

⇒ However, the warmth in relations is not up to the potential.

- Scholars suggest the India must stop looking at Nepal via China's prism and not forcing it follow India first policy.
- India must follow the Gujral doctrine and Neighbourhood First policy to allay any fear/trust deficit. First steps should be to pro actively renegotiate the Friendship treaty to close the issue at once.
- China's proposed "2+1" strategy too can be studied and used.

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11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. **(250 words) 15**

Marcus Olson in the book "Theory of Collective Action" has called pressure groups and interest groups as the most "dynamic features of a vibrant democracy".

Both of them are less institutionalised versions of political parties and aim to achieve some goals without participating directly into electoral politics.

However, there are some minor differences between them such as:

Pressure group (PGs)	Interest group
* Wider term eg. it has 3 types – → Associational → Non associational → Ad hoc	* Subset of pressure group (eg. the associational type of PGs)

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* Can be continuous or temporary	* Usually continuous as their interests are permanent.
* E.g. Anti Corruption or Anti-Rape campaigns – candle marches, etc.	* E.g. economic interest groups → FICCI → ASSOCHAM → Kisan Morcha
* May or may not be hierarchical or organised. ↳ E.g. violent protests for reservations, etc.	* Usually hierarchical and more organised

Duverger has called them the "anonymous empires" or the "invisible powerhouses" as they influence decision making / policies of government in big way. For eg. →

① The important policy decisions related to economic sector eg. Import – Export duties,

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GST rationalisation, etc. are never taken without due consultation with FICCI or ASSOCHAM.

② Pressure groups such as trade unions were widely consulted before the labor Code Bills were presented.

③ Opposition uses them to articulate their demands and for better understanding of issues in government policies.

④ Lokpal Bill was a direct result of "India Against Corruption" campaign while the Verma Committee after Delhi Rape Case (2012) was set up on the pressure by various women empowerment pressure groups.

Thus, PGs/IGs are key tools to fulfill the vision of Gandhiji for a participatory democracy

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12. Highlighting the issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

The local self government institutions were given constitutional status by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992.

However, due to reluctance of state governments, the acts were diluted by dividing its provisions into
- Compulsory provisions
- Voluntary provisions

Thus, Mani Shankar Iyer Committee has pointed towards following lacunae:-

① "Not decentralisation of power but decentralisation of corruption"

→ Permanent executive overpower elected ones

→ Political will is lacking in state governments

→ Do not devolve adequate powers mentioned in Schedule 11 and 12 of the Constitution

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② Funds

- Either not alloted funds by state governments or are highly delayed
- State governments not accepting recommendations of the Finance Commission
- Central funds are tied → no flexibility
- Even when PRIs/ULBs are alloted taxation powers, they do not utilize it.

③ Functionaries

- illiterate, low awareness, lack of capacity and skills
- become partner in corruption
- no permanent secretariat
- no book keeping / record management
- neglect of the gram sabha
- Sarpanchpati syndrome → no empowerment of women.

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Following steps can be taken to improve the functioning :-

① NCRWC (Venkatchaliah Commission)

- → Social audits for all grass root schemes
- → Compulsory meeting with Gram Sabha
- → Capacity building programes for the elected members

② Mani Shankar Iyer Committee

- → Central Finance Commission and the Election Commission of India to perform handholding task of State FCs and ECs
- → lessen the influence of district commissioners and devolve adequate powers.

③ NITI Aayog

- → Establish a permanent secretariat for digital bookkeeping to increase their financial self sufficiency through bonds from formal markets

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13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

Right to Information Act (2005) is a revolutionary legislation that empowered the people and transformed the "culture of secrecy" to "culture of openness".

It established the Central Information Commission (with 1 CIC and 10 ICs) along with state counterparts. The officials were to be held personally accountable if the lacunae is found in public disclosure and that too suo moto disclosures were made compulsory.

The CIC was given the status of Chief Election Commissioner while other ICs were given the EC status. Moreover, their salaries and other charges are charged on consolidated

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fund of India.

But recently, the government proposed the RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2018 which reduces the states of CIC/IC to the secretary of government of India.

Thus, according to civil society activists, is a tool to dilute the authority of RTI (which even now is weak, eg. political parties not accepting its orders) and CIC/IC would be reduced to the government employees → non-independent and non-autonomous.

However, GoI has argued that these are statutory posts and cannot be equated with a constitutional post of the Election Commission.

Also, the government has proposed to enlarge the list of exemptions (Section 2(k))

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which would further weaken the control of Central Information Commission.

Even the CIC (former) has responded to such moves claiming that rather than repealing the exemption list, government has enlarged it. RTI has an inbuilt provision to respect the secrecy when the danger of security / integrity / public order is imminent.

Even law commission had suggested to gradually shorten the list of exemptions to include Army, CBI, NIA, etc.

Thus, it can be concluded that RTI is a very powerful tool in hands of people which must be protected at all costs. Government should also follow the dictum of constitutional morality and popular sovereignity.

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14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. **(250 words) 15**

Delimitation can be defined as the process of adjusting the number of seats for the Parliament / State legislature as well as their distribution, areas/boundaries of constituencies, etc.

For this purpose, constitution proposed the ~~Parliament~~ President to set up a Delimitation Commission after every (10 years) census. However, the population growth of norther India was way higher than the Southern states in 1970s due to which there were huge protests as it would have kept them at backfoot and punished them for effectively controlling the population burst through efficient family planning.

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Also, the Delimitation Commission's decision is final and binding. Thus, Parliament by the Delimitation Act, 1971 fixed the distribution of seats among states on the basis of 1971 Census upto 2001 — gradually extended upto 2025.

The delimitation Commission Act 2002 also, only refined the areas of constituencies with changing the distribution of seats.

But such situation has led to issues

① Outdated population data

→ difficulty in policy making as per the present times.

→ 14th Finance Commission thus also used a 10% weightage for Census 2011.

→ 15th FC's Terms of Reference consists of moving to Census 2011 completely/partially.

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② Increased regional disparity
↳ lesser funds allocation to the more populated state have led to fund crunch and low growth while others with the lesser population have prospered

Way Forward → The Chairman of 15th F.C. has assured the Southern states of equitable fund allocation by taking new parameters into account such as "effective family planning" and also proposed special packages for the weaker states.

NITI Aayog has also argued that "moving towards current data is inevitable" for effective evidence based policy making. However, this must be in ways that are equitable and acceptable to all.

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15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. **(250 words) 15**

Self Help Groups can be defined as the groups formed by people generally of same socio economic background and pursuing common interests.

They have emerged as the major tool for achieving the Gandhian dream of self sufficient villages and inclusive/pro-poor growth with special focus on the marginalised groups - SC/ST and women.

They have achieved following successes:

① Self Sufficiency / Self Help

→ better collective bargaining power

→ less dependence on informal sources of credit / moneylenders

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→ Increased financial inclusion
→ better information exchange and sharing of technology has led to increase in productivity and incomes.

② Almost 74% of the SHGs compose of women and this has increased the overall income of family as well as the human capital — focusing on child's health and education. Eg. Kudambshree

③ Economic prosperity of the SC/ST SHGs have led to increased social status, more political power (eg. in recent Himachal Pradesh elections 20% of PRI seats were won by SHG members).

However they face various challenges such as:

① Economic constraint
↳ despite schemes such as the SHG-Bank

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Linkage programe, most SHGs depend on the money lenders due to red tapism, corruption, delay in transfers, etc.

② Issues in Grievance Redressal system → delayed procurement/payment

③ Competitive attitude by the PRIs → do not allow SHGs to work independently

④ Regional disparity → Eg. SHGs has succeeded mainly in Southern states. NE SHGs remain vulnerable.

⑤ Increased family/male income has pushed women back to homes → breaking down SHGs

Way Forward → ① Handholding task must be performed by the state government to make SHGs achieve economies of scale by better funds, technology, expertise from NGOs

② Close coordination and cooperation between PRIs / SHGs is the need of the hour

③ Assured markets and better price realisation

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16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014 to achieve the primary aim of making India Open Defaecation Free (ODF) by 2019 through building of toilets — both public and private as well as bring a behavioral change by making it a Jan Andolan by use of media / social media and grass root workers.

The Swachh Bharat Survekshan Survey (2018) and Economic Survey (2019) clearly show that government has registered huge success in this area

- 28 states (out of 29) have achieved the ODF status
- 96% of people who have toilets, also use it

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↳ lakhs of toilets have built, either through subsidy or by rehabilitation of existing public toilets.

However, SBM also had other objectives which remain far from success :-

① Elimination of manual scavenging
↳ According to Safai Karamchari Commission, 1 death was registered every 4 days since 2015.

② Solid waste Management
↳ the plants remain in dilapidated conditions due to lack of funds.
↳ No awareness of segregation at home

③ Economic Survey (2019) has proposed to expand the SBM objectives to include
- Cleaning of rivers
  ↳ addressing the industrial waste effluents

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- Afforestation of trees in public places
- Ensure that not only the homes are cleaned but also the public utilities such as airports, railway stations, etc. by taking the "Jan Andolan out of the homes" of people.
- It also suggested that continuous monitoring and utilisation of "economics of nudge" would be able to achieve the sustainable results ⇒ "Swach Bharat to Sunder Bharat"

(4) The Ban on single use plastic must be implemented pro actively (as mentioned by the PM in August 15 speech at the Red fort).

(5) The toilets built must also be ensured to have safe disposal, effective water supply and management of sludge e.g. as Biogas.

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17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. **(250 words) 15**

Mission Indradhanush has been awarded as the one of the best global health practices by the British Council of Health.

It aims at immunization of the 7 deadly diseases on a universal level to the children eg. polio, measles, etc. while some state governments have expanded the scope as well. The vaccination is provided free of cost and the shedule is monitored for each infant by the Auxillary Nurses (ANMs).

Thus, it aims to achieve the sustainable development goal 3 of universal health care, decreasing the infant mortality rate and deaths under age of 5 years.

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However, the government is facing various Challenges in achieving the goal because:-

① Anti-vaccination campaigns / leaders with orthodox beliefs

↳ they influence the illiterate parents as vaccination involves injecting of a weakened microbe.

② Carelessness of ANMs / lack of training and skills contribute to the ~~about~~ belief.

↳ moreover, the ANMs/doctors have faced violence as children usually fall sick after vaccination for some days/time.

↳ This demoralises them further.

③ Lack of supply of vaccines at public hospitals and high rates at privates.

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(4) Lack of book keeping / data collection
↳ makes it difficult to monitor the full schedule of immunization.

The government can take following steps →

(1) Increase funding to increase supply of vaccines and other equipments

(2) Incentivize the ANMs and take help of other grass roots workers eg. the Anganwadi by increased ministerial coordination.

(3) MBBS students of Community medicine department must be trained and motivated to work in rural areas as well as make the general population aware by use of posters / nukkad nataks, etc.

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18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. **(250 words) 15**

The National Health Survey (2015-16) and Economic Survey (2019) point out the fact that

* India is aging much faster than expected
  - → Total Fertility rate has gone below the replacement levels of 2.1 in 13 states.
  - → This means by 2041, India will reach the highest population of youth in its demography.
  - → Thus, we have a smaller window to usefully exploit the opportunity to prevent it from becoming demographic disaster. This is possible only by skills.

* Moreover, the changing economic structure

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by coming up of Information Communication Technology – internet, digital world, AI, big data analytics, 4th Industrial Revolution, etc., IMF points out that more than 40% of India's current workforce will become outdated due to lack of skills by 2040.

It argues that only 5% of workforce in India is skilled as compared to 80% in USA/Japan.

Thus, understanding the gravity of the issue, Government of India launched the Skill India Mission with the aim of

- skilling 100 Million people every year
- integrating vocational training as part of educational curriculum as well as in the continuous training at the work.

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However, the current statistics presented by the Minister of Skill recently, the objectives remain far from being achieved:-

① The ITIs have become hub of corruption, lack of teachers/trainers and low level of accreditation has made only marginal increase in the employability.

② The skilled workforce in past 4 years is about 35 million, way less than the target of 100 million per year.

③ Lack of private participation has been majorly responsible for the failure.

Way Forward → India is facing the most dangerous trend and the biggest opportunity it will ever get at the same time. Only a continuous and proactive focus of government/private sector can push India towards prosperity.

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19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. **(250 words) 15**

MEA recently created a dedicated division for Indo Pacific region. C. Rajamohan appreciate the step as "India coming out of its continental mentality and full fledged working towards the aim of net security provider".

Following reasons are responsible for such a crucial steps:-

① Growing influence / assertiveness of China in South China Sea and even expanding to the Arabian Sea / Bay of Bengal. Eg. Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar in Pak (Arabian Sea) and Kra Canal in Thailand (Bay of Bengal) shows it Pearl of Strings strategy.

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② Alfred T. Mahan's Theory of Ocean power → one who controls the oceans will dominate the changing world order.

→ and as per Shiv Shanka Menon: "new world order will emerge in the Indian ocean region".

→ Thus, India will have huge stakes in it.

③ Better and deepening relations with the IOR rim nations.

→ E.g. IONS, IORA as multilateral groupings

→ E.g. Maldives Security ties, India-France to launch surveillance satellites to track movement in IOR.

④ Threat of non-conventional threats has increased: E.g. terrorism (26/11), piracy,

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climate change, etc.

Thus, with so much happening in the IOR it is imperative for Indian government to have dedicated division for quick decision making, long term policy formulation and strategic/tactical goals to achieve the aims of foreign policy.

Also, as the threats and opportunities (eg. blue economy) are growing rapidly and multi-dimensionally, a division is must for inter-ministerial coordination and transforming India into a Smart and Fast power.

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20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. **(250 words) 15**

India recently got admission to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as a full time member.

It can play a crucial role for enhancing India's interest in following ways :-

① Ties with Russia
↳ Russia is insecure about China's growing influence in its backyard, it can utilize India as a competitor to China.

② Connect Central Asia Policy (2012)
↳ Chabahar port
↳ INSTC corridor, TAPI

③ Ashagabat Agreement
↳ Increased connectivity by road/air corridors

④ Counter Terrorism → use of RATs by

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Collaborative military exercises.

(5) Rejuvenating the civilizational ties with Central Asia

(6) India can finally negotiate the FTA with Eurasian nations which has been pending for long ~~to~~

(7) Economic interests

→ energy security eg. Nuclear Civil Agreement with Kazakhstan

→ raw material

↳ eg. Gold from Uzbekistan.

(8) Stability in Afghanistan and Iran

↳ by prospering their membership to SCO

However, for SCO to function as a successful regional grouping, it has to tackle the following challenges :-

(1) Bilateral Differences

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- India - Pakistan rivalry and the China - Pak nexus (all weather allies and Iron Brothers) might push India into corner
- This is more worrisome as India is seen moving closer to USA and Russia towards China and Pakistan.
- Territorial disputes between the Central Asian nations → lead to their instability

② Convergence in geopolitical calculations is also must → US and west → major bone of contention

→ India → not supporting OBOR of China (the only one in SCO grouping).

→ India's interest in India Ocean region, clashing with China's.

→ India looking for a multipola world as "one of the four petals" while China at a "sino centric world" order by Chinese dream

→ Diverging views of members for Afghanistan